

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE**OCTOBER 23, 2007**

In recent years, no two racial/ethnic groups have seen such dramatic rises in newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases than African Americans and Latinos. Jointly, African Americans and Latinos make up approximately 70% of the total HIV/AIDS burden in Los Angeles County. These two communities in particular continue to confront complex social, cultural, economic and faith-based issues that challenge efforts to stem the spread of this disease.

While infection rates continue at consistent levels, the proportion of available resources to support basic HIV/AIDS services are steadily declining. The demand for evidence-based interventions and programmatic accountability could not be clearer. In addition, resources to launch and test new initiatives could not be scarcer. The rising levels of co-emerging infections including syphilis, Hepatitis C, and tuberculosis further exacerbate public health funding gaps and challenge efforts to ensure positive health outcomes for persons living with HIV disease.

As the numbers of people with undiagnosed HIV infection continues to increase, we must go beyond traditional sexual health education and HIV prevention and education

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
BURKE	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____

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delivery mechanisms if we are to successfully serve hard to reach communities. A community mobilization plan, which adapts progressive and innovative strategies for enhancing the dialogue around HIV among a broad cross-section of African-Americans and Latinos must be a key mechanism in our fight against this epidemic locally.

As part of a full complement of HIV/AIDS services targeting the African-American and Latino communities, since 2003, the Department of Public Health's Office of AIDS Programs and Policy has relied on an African-American and Latino Community Development Initiative (CDI) to foster an HIV/AIDS community mobilization effort. On September 28, 2007, the Board received notification that the CDI contracts would not be recommended for a second renewal beyond December 31, 2007, and instead the Department would develop a new RFP to be released in July 2008, with contracts initiating on January 1, 2009. While the Department has conveyed that the funding will be spent on direct client services, it is not clear how the recipients of the \$500,000 will be selected.

This plan for the next phase of African-American and Latino HIV/AIDS community mobilization efforts has the potential of creating a gap in African-American and Latino-specific education and outreach within efforts in Los Angeles County.

I, THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Department of Public Health to report back in 2 weeks on their plan for spending the \$500,000 allocated for outreach and the community development initiative. The report should include their intentions for ensuring an HIV outreach component for African-American and Latino communities in light of the proposed gap in community mobilization efforts, justification for a new RFP process, as well as the feasibility of extending the existing contracts while a new solicitation process is designed and re-solicited.

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